



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

Playing With Words

To understand a spoken language, a child must be able to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up the language. By playing with words, children develop "phonological awareness." Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

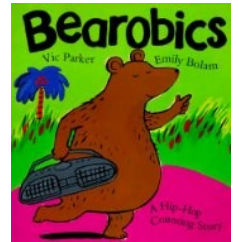
Here's what you can do:

- Help your pre-reader become aware of the smaller sounds that make up words by learning nursery rhymes and making up your own silly, nonsense rhymes together.
- Ask whether two words rhyme: "Do 'cat' and 'hat' sound alike?" "Do 'cat' and 'dog' rhyme?"
- Sing songs with your child every day. Songs naturally break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds (see back, "More fun with *Bearobics*").
- Play "I Spy" with rhymes. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with 'far' (car)." Let your child make up rhymes and have you guess, too.
- Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?"
- Leave out the last rhyming word. For example: Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you _____, (are). Do this with other nursery rhymes, poems and songs that your child knows by heart.
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language that is most comfortable for you.

Book of the Month

Bearobics, by Vic Parker

In this hip-hop counting book, a shaggy bear flips on his boom box in the woods and brings out all kinds of jiving, dancing animals to exercise with him. Preschoolers will be "bopping and shoo-wapping" right along with the animals!



Great books to help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Some favorites...

Llama Llama Red Pajama, Anna Dewdney

Mouse Mess, Linnea Asplind

Chicken Cheeks, Michael Ian Black

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, Carol Diggory Shields

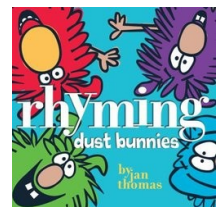
The Pout Pout Fish, Deborah Diesen

Down by the Station, Will Hillenbrand

New in 2009

Rhyming Dust Bunnies, Jan Thomas

A very funny book about dust bunnies Ed, Ted and Ned trying to teach Bob how to rhyme.



More fun with *Bearobics*...

Rhyme Time: Choose two words from the book that rhyme, such as feet and beat. Say them several times with your child and explain that these words *rhyme*, they sound alike. Help your child think of other real and nonsense words that rhyme with feet and beat (heat, meet, neat, zeat, jeet).

Out and about: Play "Secret Word" in the car, doctor's office, in line at the store, etc. Think of a word, then say a word that rhymes with the secret word (it sounds like 'hook'). Have your child guess the word. You can give hints (we read this each night).

Music and movement: Read the book with a little rhythm! Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, snap... Giving each part of the word a beat will help your young child learn to break words into syllables.

deep= 1 syllable

forest= 2 syllables

Bearobics= 3 syllables



On-line Resources

Here are some websites that can help your preschool child develop phonological awareness:

Starfall: www.starfall.com

Reading is Fundamental:
www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/

Clifford's Sound game:
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/flash/phonics/index.htm>

Reggie the Rhyming Rhino:
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bll/reggie/home/index.htm>



Sing Silly Songs

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Now make up new words to the song...

Row, row, row your car...

Or make up silly words...

Tow, tow, tow my goat...

Nonsense words...

Bow, bow, bow my doat...

Sing about where you are going or what you are doing...

Wash, wash, wash my hands...

Walk, walk, walk to school...

Children this age also like to make sentences that all begin with the same letter:

Seven slimy snakes sang silly songs!



What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about story times and other programs that are offered for preschoolers. Most story times for young children focus on rhymes and sounds.

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